

THE MOUNT SINAI UNIT  
▲ IN THE WORLD WAR ▲



VIEW OF SOUTH SIDE OF MONASTERY AS SEEN FROM ACROSS THE RIVER  
L'ISLE—MAIN MONASTERY BUILDING AND MONKS' CELLS.



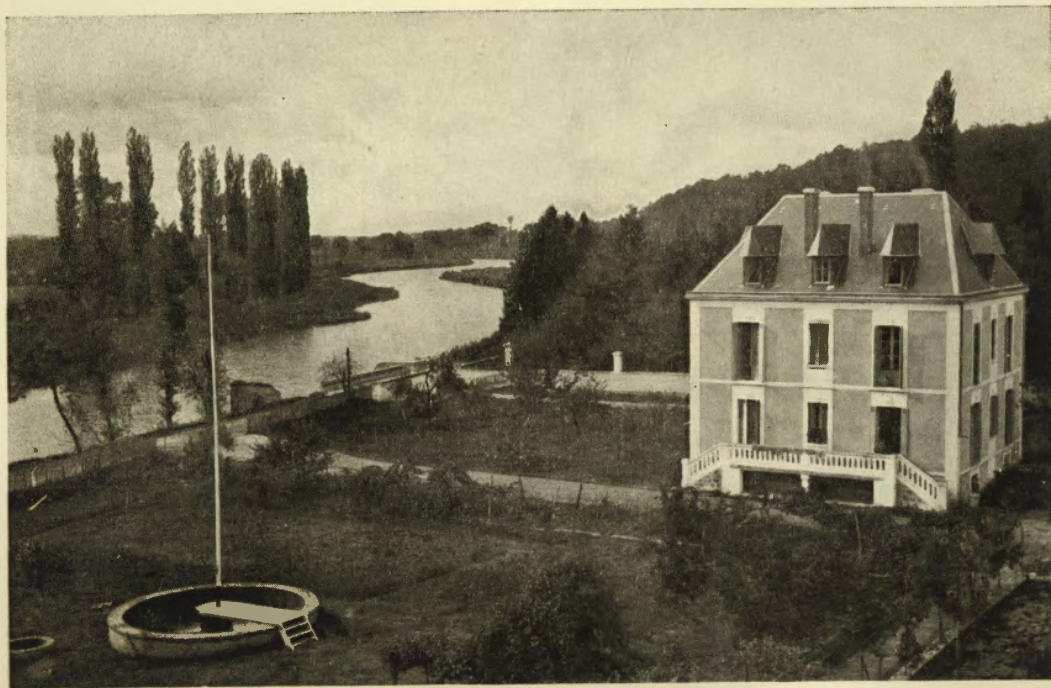
**THE MOUNT SINAI UNIT**  
**IN THE**  
**WORLD WAR**

**WITH**  
**SCENES AT**  
**BASE HOSPITAL No. 3 A. E. F.**

**AT**  
**VAUCLAIRE, DORDOGNE, FRANCE**

**1919**

**THE MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL**  
**NEW YORK**



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND RESIDENCE OF COMMANDING OFFICER AT  
ENTRANCE TO HOSPITAL GROUNDS.



## THE MOUNT SINAI UNIT IN THE WORLD WAR



O those fortunate ones whose desire to share in the active work of the relief and healing of our sick and wounded in France led to their association with Base Hospital No. 3, this little booklet, with its pictures and reminiscences will serve as a treasured reminder of the bitter-sweet days in old Vauclaire. It will bring back to mind the magnificent old monastery on the bank of the Isle, recalling the many months of gruelling work, but no less the moments, not too many, of relaxation from the mental and physical strain of the routine service in a big army hospital in the field.

To those less fortunate, whose interest in our success was equally great, but who, by force of circumstance remained behind to do their part at home, thus making our going over possible, it will be welcome as a simple

tale of the fortunes of the little band that set forth one bleak winter day to carry the Stars and Stripes and the Banner of Mt. Sinai across the perilous seas on its errand of mercy to war stricken France.

As a matter of fact, in 1916 shortly after the Mexican outbreak and long before the participation of the U. S. in the war with Germany, the Mount Sinai Hospital of New York City, the parent organization of Base Hospital No. 3, expressed its willingness to organize and place in the field a fully equipped Base Hospital. The idea was conceived by Mr. Geo. Blumenthal who furnished the needed funds for the original equipment, stimulated interest in the plan and thus made possible the organization of the Unit. The organization was then enrolled by the Red Cross, but the need for Base Hospitals not being urgent at that time the Unit was not called upon for active duty.

About one year later, in the late Spring of 1917, our country having taken up arms in the common cause against the Central Powers, the Unit was federalized, the medical officers inducted into the Medical Reserve Corps, the





THE "DOLL" HOUSES. LEFT ONE IS OFFICE AND RESIDENCE OF CHIEF NURSE.

nurses into the Red Cross, and authority issued for the recruiting of men for the enlisted personnel of U. S. Base Hospital No. 3.

To Major Walter M. Brickner, then a captain, was officially assigned the responsibility of enlisting the volunteers needed, and this competent officer selected from the hundreds of aspirants a splendid group of America's best, bearing always in mind the necessity of gathering together a personnel not only physically perfect and unquestionably loyal, but also representing the many professions and trades an isolated unit would necessarily require in its work. The wisdom of this was amply proved again and again, for, limited as were our numbers, we were never at a loss for competent technical men and artisans in all lines.

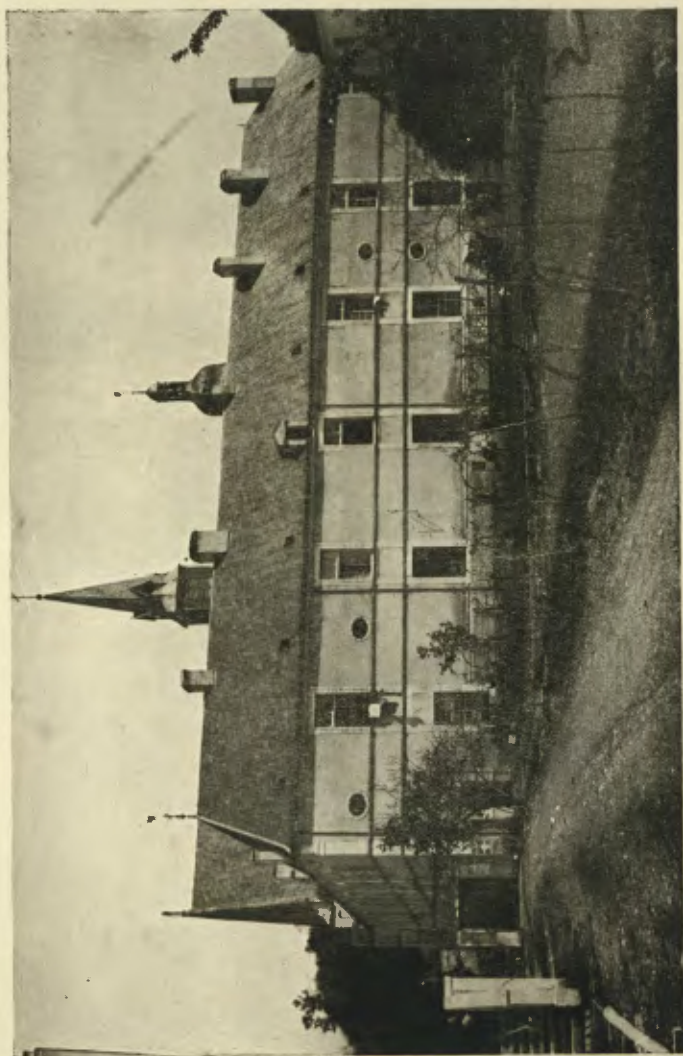
Meanwhile many of the officers were assigned to the various Medical Officers' Training Camps throughout the country, where courses of intensive training were given to fit them for the complicated business of army medical work, which differs so markedly from civilian practice. True to form, several of those officers who came to learn, remained to



teach and returned to the Unit with well earned promotions.

On August 31, 1917, Major Michael A. Dailey, M. C., having been assigned by the War Department as Commanding Officer of U. S. Base Hospital No. 3 arrived in New York and assumed command. Under his guidance, plans for mobilization were perfected and the hospital equipment, largely the donations of the Board of Trustees of Mt. Sinai Hospital and of the American Red Cross, was assembled in readiness for transatlantic shipment. The enlisted personnel were taught the rudiments of drill by those members who had had previous military experience, and the elements of hygiene, first aid, stretcher-bearing and kindred subjects by several of the senior officers, so that when in November they were mustered into service at the armory of the First Field Hospital at 56 West 66th Street, their home until sailing day, they had mastered the ground work of their army medical duties.

Here they were soon joined by the officers returning from training camps and all preparations were completed for over seas orders.



SOUTH SIDE OF MAIN MONASTERY BUILDING AND GARDEN.

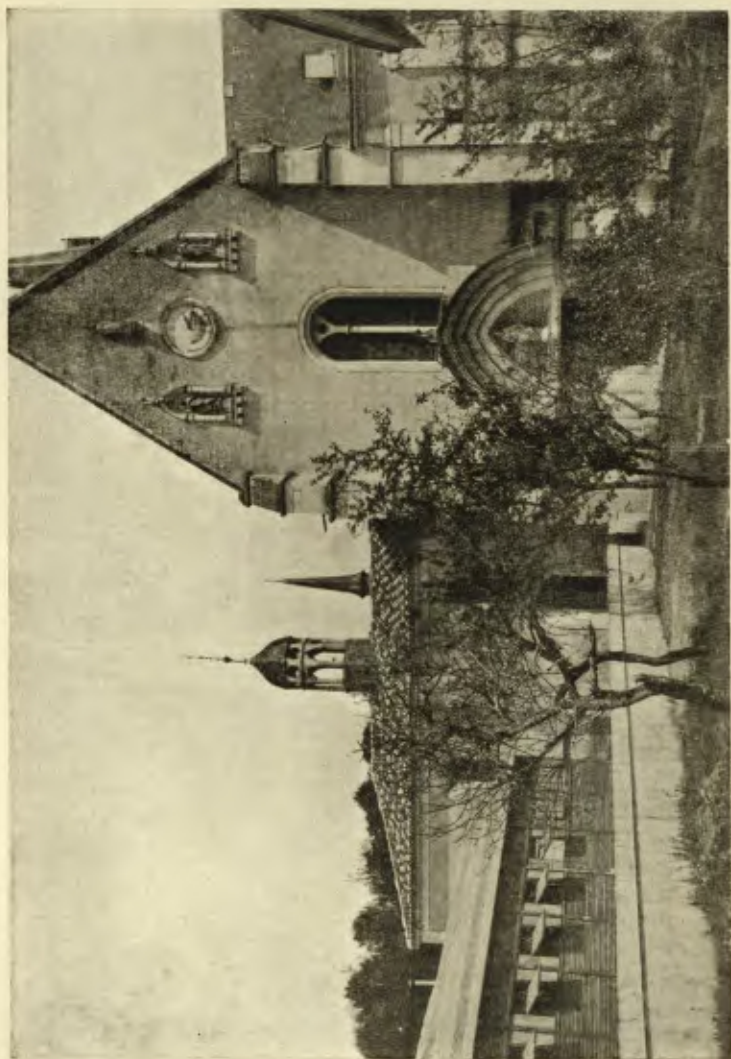


*The upper floor of the main monastery building was devoted to the officers' quarters and the men's recreation room. The lower floor included the officers' mess-hall and kitchen, the pharmacy, the post and telegraph offices and the admitting room of the hospital. A large refectory and a private chapel in the interior of the building housed the Xray department and the nurses' mess-hall.*

The nurses had meanwhile been mobilized at Ellis Island in the harbor, with Miss Amy H. Trench in charge.

Finally arrived the eventful and long awaited day. None knew, but all suspected the secret as we stealthily left the Armory in the early morning hours of February 6, 1918, ostensibly on a practice hike. The men, with full packs, were marched across Broadway to Riverside Drive and 72nd St., where they boarded a small steamer and were carried to the White Star piers. Here they were joined by the remainder of the officers, the nurses and civilian employees, and embarking on the good ship "Lapland" unobtrusively slipped out of the harbor, all hands below deck, on the momentous trip across the submarine infested Atlantic.

Once out of sight of land, we were given the freedom of the decks and had the opportunity of realizing fully our good luck in being transported on so comfortable and staunch a liner. For two days the Unit, consisting of 24 officers, 65 nurses, 5 civilian employees and 153 enlisted men were the sole passengers, until, arriving at Halifax, 1500 Canadian troops



FACADE OF CHAPEL. (Men's mess hall)



with officers and "nursing sisters" were added to the list. After a stay of 5 days in the harbor without shore leave, we left for Liverpool, one of a convoy of 7 vessels. Among these were the English armored cruiser "Prince Albert" as protector, and an Australian troop ship which had already been enroute to the battle area some three months.

Unusually tempestuous weather and rough seas were encountered and there were many "mal de mer" casualties. One gale of exceptional severity lasting three days, during which our big stern gun and several lifeboats were damaged, caused the convoy to scatter. Three more days were consumed in circling about in the endeavor to reassemble the dispersed ships.

The hours on board were spent in life-boat drills, lectures, reading and in the fascinating sport of watching for the appearance of periscopes. Nor should mention be omitted of our inseparable companion, little "Fosco," the ever present life preserver which orders required be always worn or at hand. Our Canadian friends helped pass the time by giving amateur theatricals, and a mock trial.

Of course, strict precautions were taken to avoid showing lights at night—all port holes were kept closed and only meagre illumination permitted within. No smoking was permitted on deck after sundown. A popular rendezvous was the "dug-out," a pitch dark foyer below the promenade deck—but that's another story.

After what seemed an interminable time, but was in reality but 18 days, during which we tacked and zigzagged back and forth all over the Atlantic, we at last simultaneously sighted both land and our welcome escort of six British destroyers, that convoyed us safely through the danger zone, escorting us well up into the mouth of the Clyde, our destination having been changed to Glasgow on account of unusual submarine activities at this time in the Irish Sea, particularly about the port of Liverpool. Passing the rocky shores of Ireland on our right we came in sight of the beautiful purple and green clad hills of Scotland illuminated by a most glorious sunset, and our hearts were full of thankfulness for our safe traverse of the danger zone. Even the weather was kind, and after the weeks of cold and wind at sea, the warm balmy air



ENTRANCE TO MESS HALL. (Chapel of monastery.)



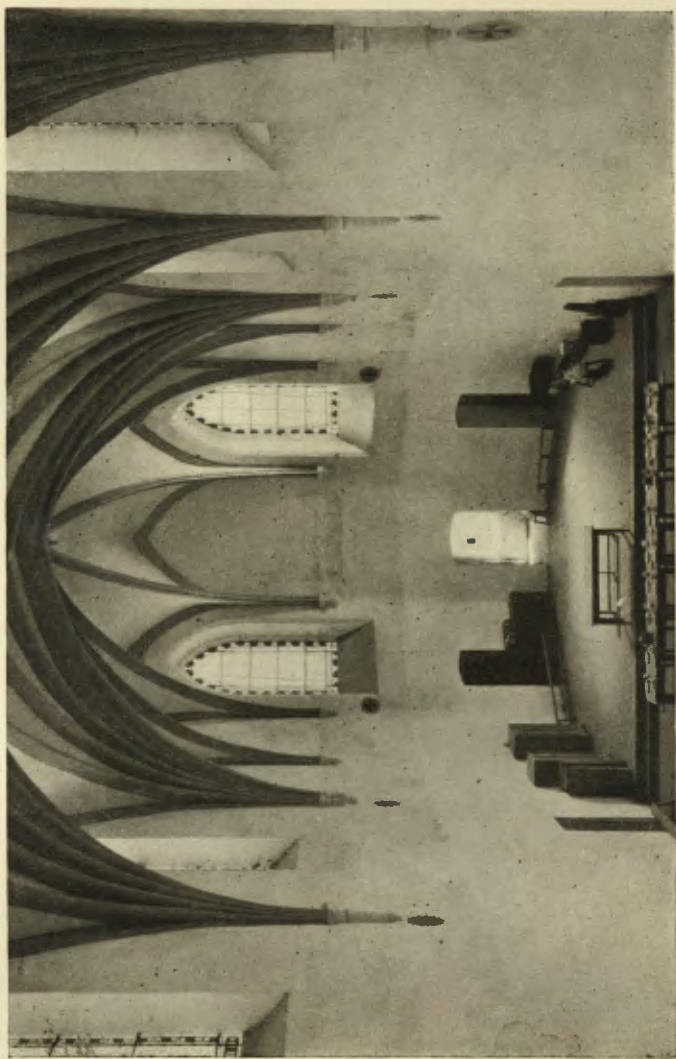
*The large chapel of the monastery was utilized as a mess-hall for the patients and the enlisted men of the hospital's detachment. In the evening, it was readily convertible into a "movie house"; and often, with the aid of a little talcum powder or boric acid, the beautiful mosaic floor was made to serve admirably for the nurses' dances.*

*A small chapel to the left with its adjacent corridors and cells was used as a store room and distributing department for medical supplies.*

was most welcome. Later in the evening, in the soft light of a full moon, we dropped anchor in the pretty harbor of Greenoch, Scotland.

Our 3 hours' trip up the Clyde the next morning was in the nature of a triumphal review. The water way, lined with immense shipyards working at high pitch to keep up with the daily loss of ships, is but a few yards wider than the beam of the Lapland and, as we steamed slowly along, the shipyards poured forth thousands of employees, mostly girls and women in overalls, to greet with lusty cheers their first sight of Uncle Sam's khaki. It was on this trip that our officers donned for the first time their Sam Browne belts, thus enhancing the picture.

Arriving at Glasgow shortly after noon on Sunday, February 26th, we were greeted by the news that the unit was to be divided temporarily. The nurses and civilian employees under the charge of Major Geo. Baehr made their way to London, thence to Folkestone, across the channel to Boulogne, and through Paris to the Casual Depot at Blois. As we afterward learned, this step was taken so that



INTERIOR OF MESS HALL. (Chapel)



the services of the nurses might be utilized in other hospitals, since the buildings assigned to us required considerable preparation before they could be made ready for the reception of patients.

Stoically repressing our grief at the separation, the remaining officers and men bade farewell to our companions, disembarked, and while Capt. Ira Cohen and his detachment were busily unloading our precious trunks, barrack bags and bedding rolls from the hold, enjoyed the novel experience of walking on terra firma and getting acquainted with the Scotch. They were duly impressed by our appearance. We overheard one Scot explaining that the "U. S." of our insignia indicated that we were "Ustralians".

Gathering up our impedimenta we marched to a nearby station of the Caledonian Railway and boarding a special train,—to most, a first experience with the compartment car—proceeded at great speed southward through Scotland and England arriving at Southampton before noon on the following day. A three mile hike brought us to a so-called "Rest" Camp where we were detained

fortunately but one night, hiking back to the dock the following afternoon to board the now famous Channel boat H. M. S. Hunslet.

The "Hunslet" was an old cattle boat captured from the Germans. We have consistently contended that the Boches deliberately permitted its taking—thus adding to their crimes against humanity. A dirtier, more stuffy and more uncomfortable boat could not be imagined. Our men were obliged to occupy the hold without bedding and the officers fared not much better, a group of 8 of us being assigned to a stable on deck. And it is not conducive to sleep to wear a life preserver in lieu of pajamas. But we got across safely, without encountering any "Fritzie Sea Hens" as the sailors termed the German mine laying subs, or any of their "Eggs," and at dawn of the last day of February we sighted the coast of France, our long sought objective—the theatre of the Great Drama. Landing at Le Havre, our boys cleaning the boat thoroughly before they disembarked, we again went through the strenuous experience of relaxing at a "Rest" Camp, being routed out at 2 A.M. next morning to entrain for the interior.



THE MESS HALL ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

The chapel could accommodate 600 men seated at tables, or 2,000 when seats were arranged for "movies."



Our departure from camp in a drenching rain, through miles of mud and darkness and to the accompaniment of an air raid and the boom of anti-aircraft guns will long remain in our memories as our first intimate touch with the actualities of the conflict.

Entraining at Le Havre, we started on a three day journey to "Somewhere in France" not knowing our destination, but judging our course by the towns through which we passed, aided by our memory of school-day geography and more accurately by the railroad "Indicateur." Tours, Angouleme, Coutras—where, thanks to the forethought of Major Beer we enjoyed our first "honest to goodness" meal in three days and where we spent the night in real beds. The following day we proceeded by way of a branch line to Montpon, Dordogne, whence a hike of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles brought us to the terminus of our 5000 mile journey,—the beautiful 14th century Monastery on the bank of the Isle at Vauclaire, the home of Base Hospital No. 3 in France.

It was the consensus of opinion among those who were best able to judge that the Mt. Sinai Unit was given the best hospital

site in France from the point of view of buildings and surroundings. Certainly the combination of a grand old pile of massive cloisters by the side of the winding Isle, with its group of modern concrete ward and service-buildings was unique and admirably adapted to our purpose.

Delving back into the past, we find that old Vauclaire has had an interesting and variegated history. Refreshing our memory by referring to the text of a beautiful collection of phototypes and a resume by Capt. Denzer of the Abbe Gouzot's "La Chartreuse de Vauclaire en Perigord" (Riberac, 1859) we learn the following: The idea of founding a Carthusian monastery is ascribed to Helie VII, Comte de Perigord, who selected this region on both sides of the river Isle as its site. Death, however, prevented the execution of his pious wishes, which were finally consummated by "The Three Lights of the Province," Archambaud IV, Roger Bernard and Cardinal Talleyrand to whom King Philip V gave permission to start the monastery. In 1328 the legal formalities were concluded and in 1330 work was begun, the monastic lands having



BELL AND CLOCK TOWERS SEEN FROM COURT YARD OF BUILDING No. 2.



been set aside. These included (we repeat the names as much for the pictures they recall as for their historical value) the land between the Isle and the Chemin du Pizon: the island and the fields whereon was built the mill: the vineyard of St. Martin de Montignac: the metairie de Pomarede in the parish of St. Martial d'Artenset, and la dome de paroises de Vauvains et Pizon. Of the Counts of Perigord, the most celebrated was without doubt the Cardinal Elie Talleyrand, a pious and powerful man. His prominent part in papal politics, to which four popes owed their election, led Petrarch to say of him "that it is better to make popes than to be one." He it was who really founded the monastery.

"Talleyrandus fundavit an. 1330.  
Deus instauravit an. 1858."

reads the inscription on a base relief in the hall of the main building and between these two dates Vauclaire and its inhabitants suffered many trials, disorders and vicissitudes. The Hundred Years' War compelled them to abandon their home and seek shelter in Bordeaux, and in their 70 years absence, the monastery, exposed ceaselessly to the belli-

gerents, fell in ruins. It was not until Charles VII, driving the English from Aquitaine with the aid of the immortal Jeanne d'Arc, brought peace and prosperity again to France, that the monks returned and restored their home, gradually reaching a period of peace and prosperity under the protection of Louis XI and Charles VIII.

But about 1560 began a series of religious conflicts "more deadly than political wars." Protestantism, hardly born, was already a power and Vauclaire did not escape the ravages of the invaders. The new religion, under the influence of the House of Navarre, entered Perigord in 1562 by way of Bergerac, conquering also Mussidan and Montpon. The soldiers pillaged, burned and killed, looting the monastery of much of its furniture and trappings. Again was it profaned in 1568, and of this particular attack our chronicler remarks, "profound mists enveloped the abbey, even the lamp of the sanctuary was dimmed. They (the Protestant soldiers) crossed the court, filled with terrible shadows. They rushed into the church, lighted the candelabras accustomed to show the ceremonies and joys of holy men, and ran through



NORTHERN HALF OF CAMPUS AS SEEN FROM  
BELL TOWER.



SOUTHERN HALF OF HOSPITAL CAMPUS AS SEEN  
FROM BELL TOWER



*These two birds-eye views obtained from one of the towers of the main monastery building are designed to show the general plan of the hospital. The old cloisters enclose a large quadrangular court in which are three buildings of modern construction, the central kitchen, the operating room building and the building devoted to dentistry and facio-maxillary surgery. Along the south cloisters are seven monks' cells, four of which are here shown. Doors along the east and north cloisters lead into courtyards, each containing a modern ward building. In the distance is seen the isolation pavilion for contagious diseases.*

the chapel, the cloisters and cellules. They met only one monk, 80 years old. They killed him and threw his body into the Isle. They broke the images of saints and burned the church and cloister. The work of many generations of monks and two centuries of patience was destroyed in a night—such was the character of that occurrence, the most lugubrious in the history of monastic annals."

Thus eras of peace and prosperity alternated with prolonged periods of destruction and poverty. In 1615 the monks were again driven out but, returning after a year, enjoyed a long period of tranquility and prosperity—the period of the "Glory of Vauclaire" which was again interrupted during the trying days of the Revolution, when, expelled by the Assembly in 1793, they sought refuge in Italy and Spain.

The year 1858 saw the restoration of the monastery to the Carthusian order. The monks at once occupied themselves in rebuilding their beloved home from its ruins, and as they then restored it, so it stands in large part to-day.



THE CLOISTERS.



Our chronicler, with a hint of prevision, asks, "Shall the peaceable inhabitants of Vauclaire be ever again expelled from their home? Peut-etre." For current history tells us that in 1900 the State, having the upper hand, banished the members of the order and confiscated all its properties. The French Government appreciating the splendid natural and architectural possibilities of Vauclaire, set about establishing an institution for the care of mental cases. Without disturbing the magnificent old buildings, save the abolition of some of the cellules, they erected a score of modern, one and two-story cement buildings, including wards, a kitchen, a power plant, a laundry, two hydropathic buildings, large and small dormitories, and a sewage disposal plant.

The outbreak of the great War in 1914 made necessary the abandonment of the asylum construction, then 95 per cent. complete, France needing every able bodied man in the service. It was to this novel combination of a restored monastery and modern hospital buildings that Base Hospital Unit No. 3 was assigned for duty.

By way of digression, let us relate an odd superstition of the countryside. The peasants, never reconciled to the banishment of their beloved monks, retain the fixed idea that the frères will again return, as history tells they always have. Soon after the arrival of the officers and men of the unit, the rumor spread that we were the Carthusian monks returned in disguise, and this belief was openly and repeatedly expressed in the town of Montpon on market days.

Though 95 per cent. structurally complete, much preparatory work remained to be done before the Hospital could be declared ready for patients. Here Yankee ingenuity and adaptability came to the fore, and officers and men played the role of carpenter, plumber, road builder, laundryman, engineer, farmer, housekeeper and the like, goaded on by the desire to do our best—(and by Maj. Dailey). Rapidly the place took on its new aspect of order and completeness. Tons of equipment were set up and made ready; operating rooms, wards, medical and quartermaster storerooms, kitchens, laboratories, a garage, bath houses, living quarters were equipped; some of the



CHARACTERISTIC ENCLOSED COURT BEHIND EACH MONK CELL.  
This cell and court was used as a nurses' infirmary.



nurses were recalled and finally the word "Ready!" was flashed to headquarters.

Meanwhile, despite our many and varied occupations, we had already established most cordial relations with the good people in the neighborhood. It is but fitting that we include a word of appreciation of our dear friends in and about Montpon—who did all in their power to lessen our nostalgia, by kindly visits, helpful suggestions and frequent invitations to dine at their homes (and a most acceptable change these made from our army diet), and who by their extreme kindness and thoughtfulness, made our long stay in a foreign land much less harsh and onerous than it would otherwise have been. All of us will retain pleasant memories of the acquaintances made "Over There."

Who of us will ever forget for example that kindly gentleman, M. Henri Laborde the banker, the man who would open his bank at night, on Sundays and on holidays to accommodate us, and never would charge a sou to members of the Unit for his services; who saw to it that we were not overcharged in the

shops and markets and whose dinners were a potent argument against prohibition.

No history of the Unit would be complete without a reference to the Puits d'Or, that quaint little old hotel tucked in a side street where Mme. Patinet served our hungry boys (and girls) a most delightful dinner for 5 francs. She worried daily until 7 P. M. lest she had over stocked her larder and after that hour lest she have not enough for her guests.

But let us return to the Hospital. The first patients received, other than civilians of the neighborhood and members of the command, were from the artillery centres in Libourne and Perigueux. These were soon followed by a convoy of battle casualties arriving by Hospital Train No. 53. The railroad approaching Vauclaire reached no nearer than Montpon, some  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles away, necessitating the transportation of the sick and wounded the rest of the way by motor ambulances and trucks. A well thought out system for the reception of patients in large numbers was established. At the station a special siding was employed where hospital



REMOVING STRETCHER CASES FROM A HOSPITAL TRAIN.



*These magnificently equipped hospital trains of the American Army carried about five hundred sick and wounded. The problem of evacuating this number from the train and transporting them to the hospital was further complicated by the fact that the latter was situated two and a half miles from the railway station. During exceptional periods of crisis, for example after the Chateau Thierry drive, these trains brought us the wounded directly from the Field Hospitals, as many as two trains (over 1,000 patients) arriving in twenty-four hours. At other times the sick and wounded were first passed through an Evacuation Hospital.*

trains were shunted from the main tracks. Here a group of medical officers superintended the debarkation of the patients and their transfer to the waiting line of motors. The value of the hours of stretcher drill in New York was here manifested in the smoothness and celerity with which this was accomplished. Arriving at the Hospital, the ambulances circled the grounds, passing through the old cloisters, which the good monks had wisely built just wide enough to permit the passage of a White Motor Ambulance, thus permitting each of the sick and wounded to be brought to the door of the ward to which he had been assigned. No time was lost in getting the patients in bed, bathed, warmed, fed, and made as comfortable as their physical disabilities would permit.

Hospital trains had a habit of arriving at night; nevertheless the entire staff of nurses, doctors and personnel would be on duty properly to prepare for, receive and administer to their new charges.

On the 11th of June there were 558 patients in the wards. It should be remembered that our original organization and equipment com-



THE CENTRAL COURT.



THE BAKERY WHERE ENOUGH BREAD WAS BAKED  
TO SUPPLY 4,000 PEOPLE A DAY.

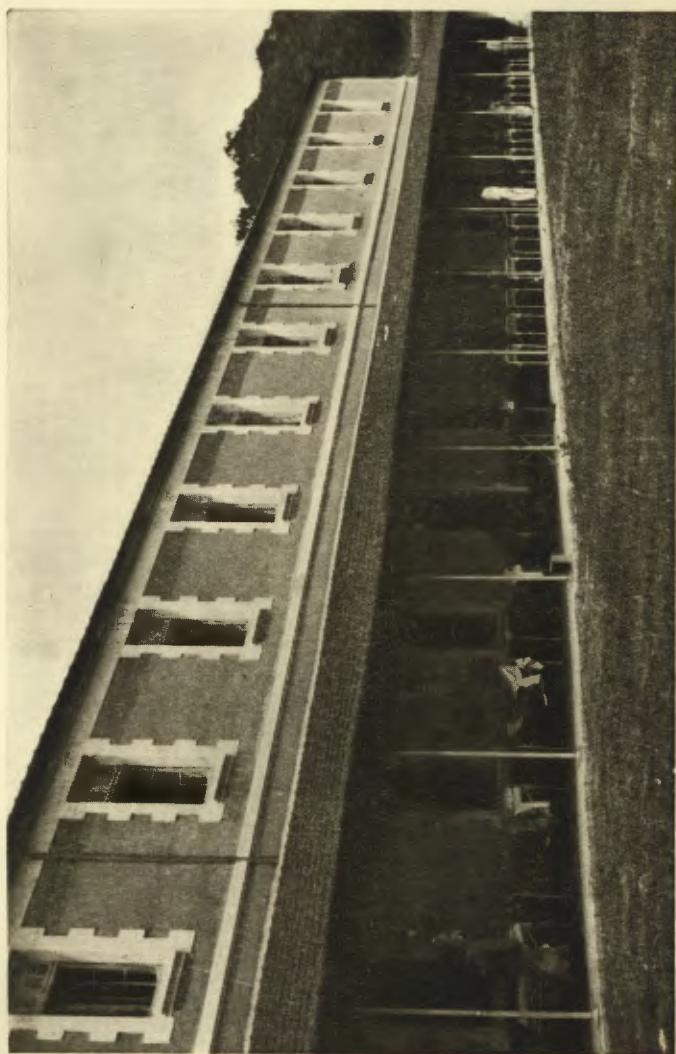


templated the care of only 500 patients. After the 21st of July we never had fewer than 1000. This number increased by leaps and bounds after each offensive, until by October our 500 bed hospital had expanded to crisis capacity and was accommodating over 2800 sick and wounded. The amount and variety of labor in the administration and running of so vast an establishment was necessarily very great. To the lay mind and to a great extent also to the civilian practitioner's mind, a war hospital means only the actual medical and surgical treatment of sick and wounded. One is apt to overlook the vast amount of correlated duties entailed; as for example the keeping of accurate and detailed records, the maintenance of an adequate system of sanitation and of supply, the preparation and distribution of food, clothing, equipment, and other materials, the repeated examinations necessary for the listing and evacuation of cured, convalescent, and permanently disabled soldiers, the problems of transportation and of the maintenance of discipline by a force of military police not only at the hospital but in the surrounding villages, the establishment of courts of justice, of a

post office, of places of worship for the various sects represented and of ways and means of diverting the patients and personnel by innocent amusement and entertainment.

We were really a small town, the inhabitants numbering at one time nearly 4000,—an isolated community with all the usual and many of the unusual activities there to be found.

As an added handicap to our busy unit, our little band of workers was always below its original numerical strength due to the detachment, individually or in groups, of nurses, medical officers and enlisted men for duty elsewhere in the S. O. S. or in the Zone of Advance. Early in March 1918, Lts. Poll and Oppenheimer were selected from a group of volunteers to proceed to La Courtine, where they were soon joined by Lts. Rosenthal, Bleier and Skversky; Lts. Poll and Skversky never rejoining the unit, the others returning after several months absence. Capt. Ira Cohen was selected to establish and to command a camp hospital at Libourne; his continued absence was both our loss and Libourne's gain. He did literally break into



ONE OF THE WARD BUILDINGS.



*The buildings of modern construction included six long two-story structures, each having a maximum crisis capacity of 280 beds, five long one-story structures whose capacity varied from 60 to 105 beds, and an isolation pavilion of 24 beds. In addition there were modern buildings for the main kitchen, the operating rooms, the nurses' dormitory, the nurses' recreation rooms, the residence and office of the Chief Nurse and for the headquarters of the hospital. Ten of the ward buildings were situated in individual courts which opened into the cloisters through narrow doors. It was therefore easily possible to isolate any of these ward buildings whenever the necessity arose.*

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the hospital again by way of a motor cycle accident but that too is another story.

Several surgical teams comprising surgeons, nurses and enlisted men were organized for duty in the more advanced posts. Of these, one headed by Lt. Col. Lilienthal and including Majors Brickner and Frank, Nurses Bailey, Dooley and Gibbons, and Pvts. 1st Cl. Shean and Zehetner, made a splendid record at Evacuation Hospitals back of Verdun. Another group headed by Maj. Beer, and numbering in addition Majs. Sternberger and Meyer, Nurses Overend and McCormick and Pvts. 1st Cl. Smith and O'Reilly did fine work at Neuilly and later at Evacuation Hospital No. 7.

Lt. Denzer was for some time assigned to the Central Laboratory at Dijon. Maj. Baehr, detailed to Bordeaux to establish a laboratory centre, was soon recalled to Vauclaire to be joyously welcomed as our new Commanding Officer, replacing Maj. Dailey, Maj. Celler having held the reins until his arrival. The writer spent five busy months as eye surgeon of Evacuation Hospital No. 2 at Baccarat.





A TYPICAL WARD.

In July, 22 enlisted men were transferred to the 77th Division then in the Vosges. Two others, Caesar and Hacker, were accepted from among a number of volunteers for experimentation with trench fever.

These examples of the reduction of our force will serve to show the handicap under which we labored. At the end of June there were but 12 medical officers and a dental surgeon at the post with a corresponding lack of nurses and men. Of course it is not to be inferred that our depleted and ever changing original unit was obliged to continue its labors unassisted. In response to demands for help, groups of casual officers, nurses and men were assigned to the hospital for longer or shorter periods. To some of them we were indebted for most valuable assistance. For example for some time we had with us seventy nurses of Base Hospital Unit No. 22, and later the personnel of the 333rd Amb. Co., an unusually fine group of men.

Special mention must be made of Major John Means of Base Hospital No. 22 who, in the absence of all our senior surgeons, acted

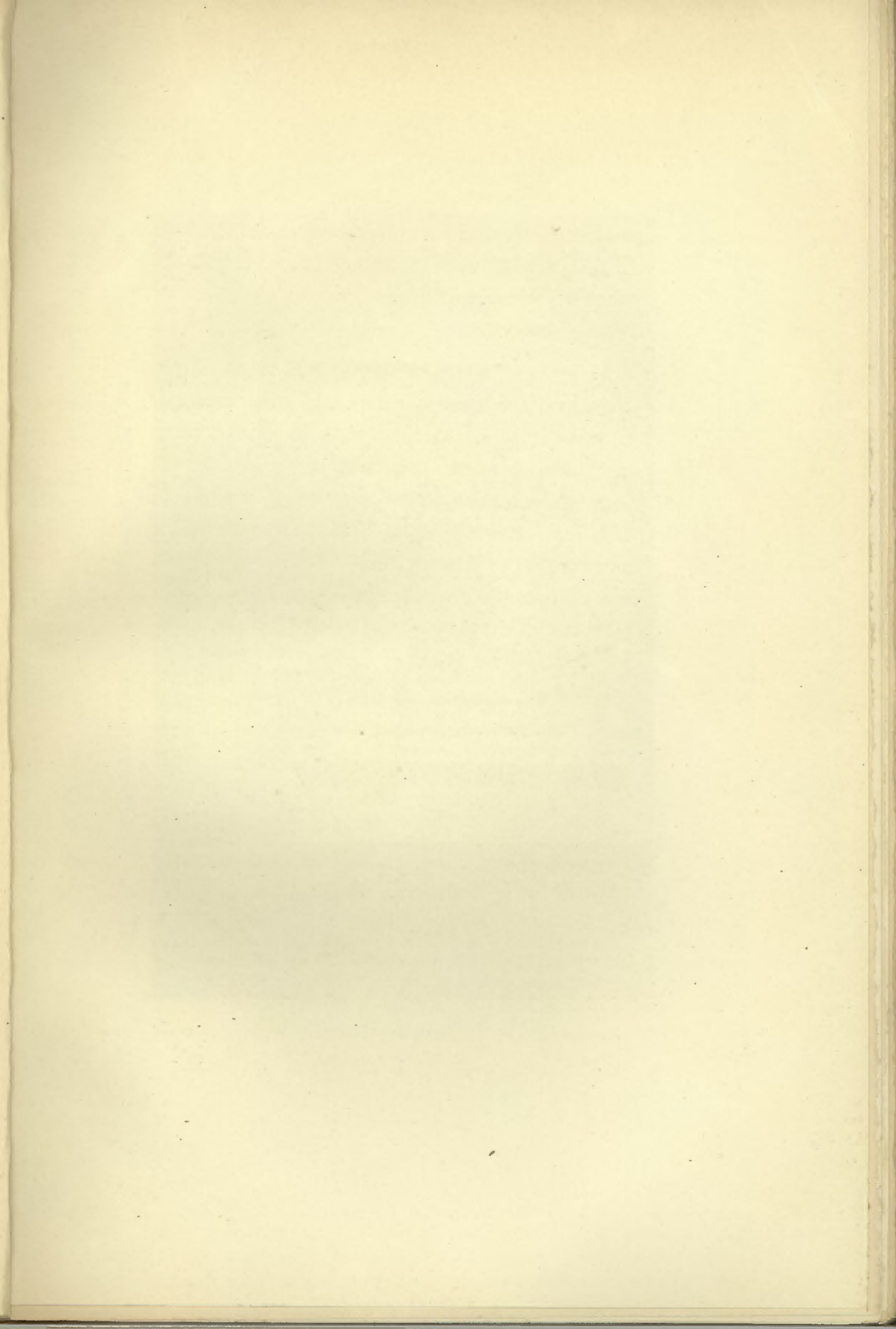
as Chief of the Surgical Service during two of the busiest months, and of Capt. J. Ullman who so competently supervised our special fracture service.

Emergencies in the advanced area, besides crowding the hospital capacity, also necessitated calling forward teams and groups from our establishment, so that by a species of vicious cycle, the arrival of a heavy convoy of wounded was the signal for the departure of surgeons, nurses and men. But we nevertheless managed to handle the situation and with all due modesty admit that Base Hospital No. 3 did excellent work.

Without delving too deeply into the mass of available statistics, it is most interesting and instructive to note that of a total of 9127 patients treated at Base Hospital No. 3, including convoys of wounded received direct from the battle line, as well as victims of the epidemics of influenza, there were but 172 deaths (54 surgical and 118 medical, the latter mostly due to influenza pneumonia.)

These 172 martyrs, who gave their all in the great cause, lie buried in the quiet, white-walled cemetery at Menesterol and we are







PATIENTS ON COTS IN THE CLOISTERS, AUGUST, 1918.

Whenever the hospital became filled to its maximum crisis capacity (2800 patients), the modern ward buildings were inadequate to accommodate all the sick and wounded. It then became necessary to utilize portions of the main monastery buildings, the monks' cells and even the corridors and cloisters. The monks' cells, each with its individual high walled garden, made ideal units for the isolation of contagious diseases.



certain that our good friends and allies of the Dordogne will ever keep their resting place sacred and well cared for.

The cessation of hostilities on November 11, instead of terminating our work, found us at the highest point of our activity. The hospital was crowded to crisis capacity, the wards all full, cots and beds closely aligned throughout cloister, verandas, halls, corridors, and recreation rooms. Additional space was made available by condensing the quarters of officers and men. Eight of ten huge barracks, each accommodating from 120 to 160 men had been erected by the engineers and were housing their full quota.

However, the rush of new patients having ceased, and the evacuation of old ones continuing as rapidly as was consistent with safe transportation, (over 2400 patients being evacuated in December) the wards, corridors and barracks were soon depleted, so that when, on January 11, 1919, U. S. Base Hospital No. 71 arrived at Vauclaire to relieve our Unit there were but 441 patients remaining. The transfer was effected and U. S. Base Hospital No. 3 ceased to function as a base hospital on



**SURGICAL PATIENTS IN THE COURT YARD OUTSIDE  
A WARD BUILDING.**



**EXTERIOR OF BUILDING NO. 5 RESERVED FOR  
SPECIALTIES**  
(Dental and faciomaxillary surgery, ophthalmology, laryngology)

January 20, 1919, the outfit however, remaining at Vauclaire in the status of a casual organization.

Now ensued a period of enforced rest from our strenuous labors, a tedious wait until transportation facilities could be provided for our homecoming; and it is an interesting commentary on our personnel that instead of enjoying the days and weeks of relaxation, they sighed for the busy days of useful work that were ended. Many of us took advantage of permission to visit the countryside, near and far, but the danger of missing the boat kept most of the Unit close to Vauclaire.

In this interval, several changes in our personnel occurred. Seventeen nurses selected from a large group of volunteers, left for Treves, Germany, for duty with the Army of Occupation, as did also Lt. Rosenthal. Lt. Col. Lilienthal and later Majors Brickner, Yankauer and Goodman returned to the United States in advance of the unit.

Finally, after several false alarms, the welcome orders arrived, directing the departure of the officers and nurses and on February 15,



1919, this group bade farewell to Vauclaire, the enlisted men, officered by Lt. Col. Baehr, and Lt. Marin joining with our good friends of Montpon in giving us a rousing send off, in spite of a drenching rain. A last trip in the quaint compartment cars of the "Paris and Orleans" through Coutras and Libourne brought us to Bordeaux, where after a night as guests at a Base Hospital at Tallance we motored to Bassens, and boarded the trim little fruiter, the "Santa Marta," at the mile long American docks.

A seventeen day leisurely cruise along the Southern route relieved from absolute boredom by the energy and resourcefulness of Capt. Bendick, who drove away ennui by a series of deck dances, shuffle board tournaments and the like, brought us at last on March 5, 1919, to New York and home. And how welcome was the sight of the well known skyline!

Our entrance into the harbor assumed the nature of a pageant for as we passed Bartholdi's Statue of Liberty, the "George Washington" outward bound, with President Wilson on her bridge enroute to the Peace Conference



BUILDING NO. 4, OPERATING AND STERILIZING ROOMS—CENTRAL. COURT.

and convoyed by a flotilla of destroyers—gave us a noisy welcome. The President, uncovering, smiled and waved a greeting.

The enlisted personnel of Base Hospital No. 3, officered by Lt. Col. Baehr, Capt. Stern and Lt. Marin, left Vauclaire two days later (March 7), and on March 14th embarked at Bassens on the U. S. S. Pastores, a hospital ship carrying some 1500 sick and wounded, whose wants they looked after during the trip home. Landing at Newport News, March 25th they proceeded to Norfolk, Va., and thence to New York City. After a few days at Camp Upton they were honorably discharged from the military service of the U. S.

Our handsome and competent Quartermaster Capt. Schwab electing to remain the A. E. F., was transferred to Monte Carlo and promoted to the rank of Major, Q.M.C.

Meanwhile the nurses and officers had likewise returned to civil life and the Mt. Sinai Unit after its splendid work of mercy ceased to exist as an official entity. But to its members it will always continue to exist in memories of the work carried on in the old monastery and along the firing line.

Cyril Barnert.





VIEW ACROSS RIVER L'ISLE FROM THE BELL TOWER

ROSTER OF  
THE MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL UNIT  
(Base Hospital No. 3)



STAFF OF BASE HOSPITAL NO. 3.



COMMANDING OFFICER

Lt. Col. Michael A. Dailey, M.C.  
(To October 20, 1918)

Lt. Col. George Baehr, M.C.  
(October 21, 1918 to April 23, 1919)



THE FIRST OPERATING TEAM.



THE SECOND OPERATING TEAM, WEARING GAS MASKS AND TRENCH HELMETS

DIRECTOR

Lt. Col. Howard Lilienthal, M.C.

*Chief of Surgical Service*





THE OLD MILL IN WHICH WAS INSTALLED AN ELECTRIC GENERATING PLANT,  
UTILIZING THE RIVER L'ISLE FOR MOTIVE POWER, AND THE ADJOIN-  
ING QUARTERMASTER STORE HOUSES SEEN FROM THE RIVER.

## STAFF

Lt. Col. Herbert L. Celler, M. C.

*Chief of Medical Service*

Lt. Col. Edwin Beer, M.C.

*Surgeon*

Major Walter M. Brickner, M.C.

*Surgeon*

" Robert T. Frank, M.C.

*Surgeon*

" Leo B. Meyer, M.C.

*Surgeon*

" Sidney Cohn, M.C.

*Surgeon*

*Adjutant until Oct. 1919*

" Edwin Sternberger, M.C.

*Physician*

" Sidney Yankauer, M.C.

*Laryngologist*

" Ira Cohen, M.C.

*Surgeon*

" Daniel Poll, M.C.

*Physician*

" William A. Schwab, Q.M.C.

*Quartermaster*

Capt. Arthur J. Bendick, M.C

*Radiographer*

" Samuel H. Geist, M.C.

*Surgeon and Registrar*

STAFF—Continued

- Capt. Harry C. Salzstein, M.C.  
*Surgeon*
- " Cyril Barnert, M.C.  
*Ophthalmologist*
- " Edward Bleier, M.C.  
*Surgeon*
- " Bernard S. Denzer, M.C.  
*Chief of Laboratory  
Service*
- " Abraham Skversky, M.C.  
*Neurologist*
- " Nathan Rosenthal, M.C.  
*Physician*
- " Jacob Asch, D.C.  
*Chief of Dental Service*
- " Leo Stern, D.C.  
*Dental Surgeon*
- 1st Lt. E. D. Oppenheimer, M.C.  
*Orthopedic Surgeon*
- " W. M. Frankenheimer, S.C.  
*Medical Supply Officer*
- 2d Lt. H. Ned Marin, S.C.  
*Adjutant and Detach-  
ment Commander*
- " James Marshall, S.C.  
*Assistant Registrar*
- " Edwin W. Brand, M.T.C.  
*Motor Transport Officer*





NURSES OF BASE HOSPITAL No. 3.

## NURSES

Amy H. Trench, *Chief Nurse*  
(To January, 1919)

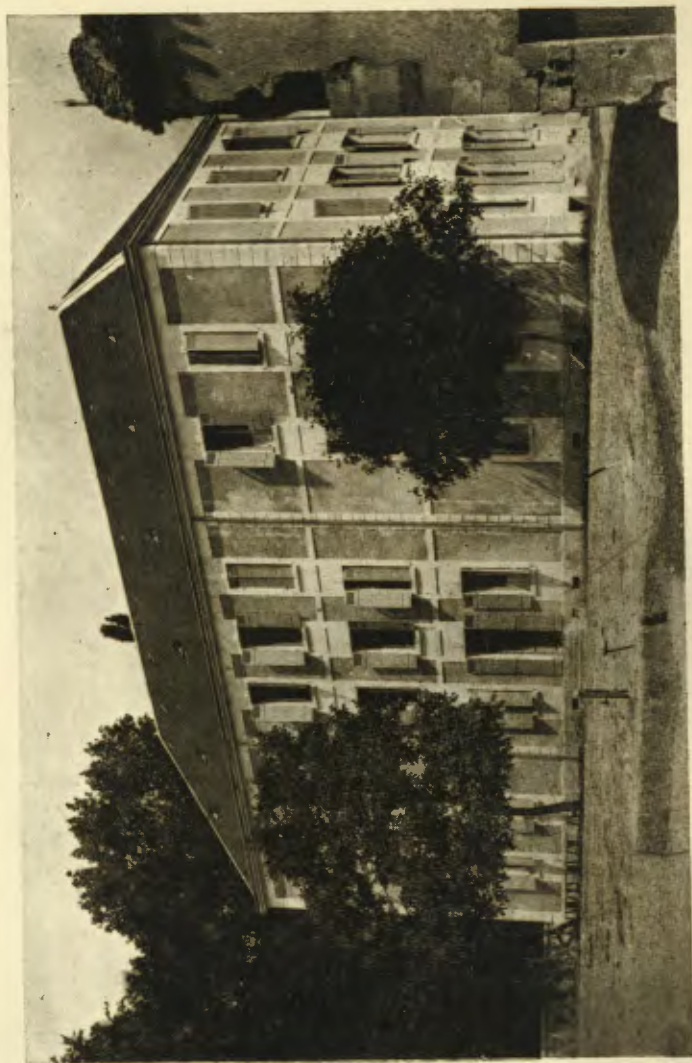
Nina M. Coad, *Acting Chief Nurse*  
(From January, 1919)

Cora Ball  
Bess Boyer  
Margaret Bracken  
Margaret Bailey  
Henrietta Credo  
Elizabeth K. Dixon  
Anna Doyle  
Margaret Doyle  
Ina Downes  
Helen Dixon  
Margaret Dooley  
Violet Dobson  
Margaret Dempster  
Dora W. Fluekiger  
Winifred Forsyth  
Ina Ferguson  
Dorothea Gaut  
Mabel Grady  
Florence Graves  
Kathleen Guest  
Alice Higgins  
Annie Harrison  
Margaret A. G. Hickey  
Alice B. Hill  
Elizabeth Helman

NURSES—*Continued*

Martha Joyce  
Blanche Jones  
Lilla Lawrence  
Beatrice LaBoissiere  
Helen A. Lees  
Blanche Lowe  
Christine MacMillan  
Edna Clay  
Katherine Caulfield  
Georgiana Donnelly  
Frances E. Dessell  
Frances Daly  
Mary McCormick  
Etta McClure  
Grace McCowan  
Elma McDermot  
Nancy G. McGhee  
Margaret Marran  
Helen J. Moses  
Frances Milligan  
Beatrice Moule  
Marion Moxham  
Grace Orr  
Ella Osborne  
Libbie Myers  
May Overend  
Marion Overend  
Emily Petty  
Ada Potter





NURSES' DORMITORY

NURSES—Continued

Helen Read

Elvia Robertson

Florence Robertson

Mabel E. Shortliffe

Lucille Spratling

Lotta Swazie

May L. Woughter

Frances Wolf

Kittie Zachariah

CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES

Ethel Ambrose

Lillian Brodine

Rose Frank

Edith Greener

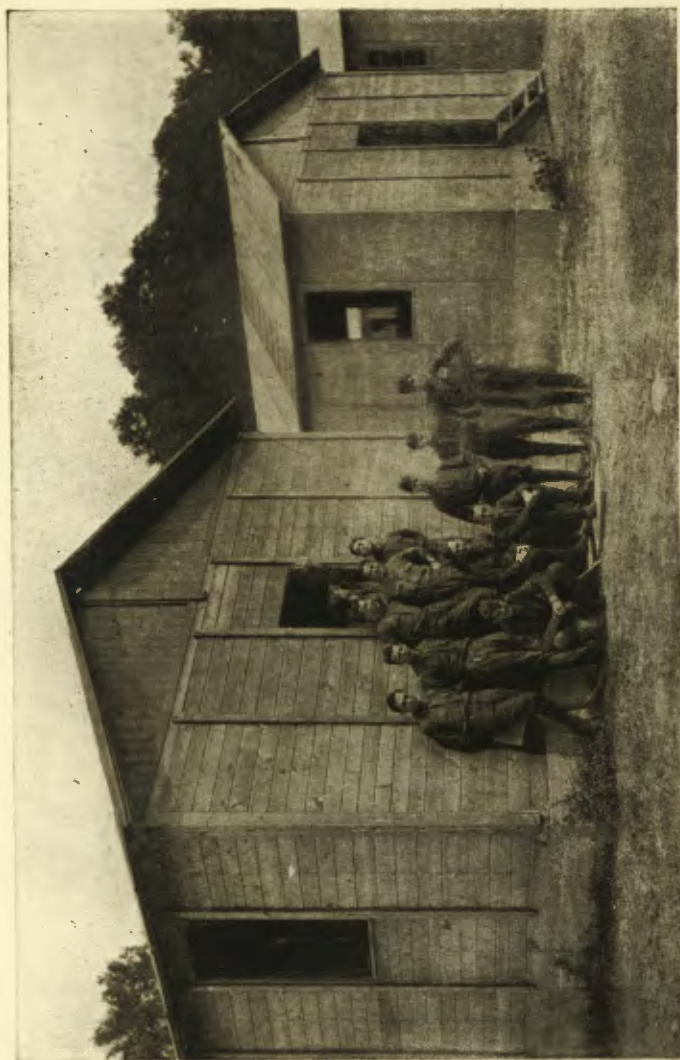
Bella Trachtenberg





A WARD IN BUILDING NO. 6 RESERVED FOR FRACTURES.  
Entire ward equipped with Balkan frames which have been decorated for Thanksgiving Day.

ROSTER OF  
ENLISTED PERSONNEL  
(Rank as of date of discharge)



MEN'S BARRACKS.



*The original 153 enlisted men of the Unit bore the brunt of the work at the hospital. Although during times of crisis small groups were detached for service at the front, their numbers were eventually increased by the addition of Ambulance Company No. 333 (Flint, Mich.) and by detachments from Field Hospitals and Regimental organizations. By the time the Unit ceased operating, the enlisted personnel of the hospital numbered 550.*

HOSPITAL SERGEANT

Donald M. Stern

SERGEANTS 1ST CLASS

Albert Dreyfous

Alvin S. Hirsh

George E. Tissell

Charles F. Naumburg

William F. Blome

Abraham Males

Alexander Nelson

Alphonse Hedberg

Harry J. Hammer

Roswell S. Frichette

Nathan Freeman

David Winchester

Jean M. Begue



**THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OF MONTPON AND HIS  
BRASS HELMET.**

This building was demolished by fire (with the help of the  
Base Hospital No. 8 Fire Fighting Squad under Sgt. Dreyfuss,  
formerly of the New York Fire Department).



**THE TOWN CRIER (Montpon).**



## SERGEANTS

Herbert W. Kastendieck  
Charles A. Roth  
Irving Friedman  
Philip H. Brady  
Herman S. Schwabacher  
Myron I. Granger  
Karl Propper  
Gregory Sophin  
Milton Waldman  
Albert E. Levy  
John E. Harris  
Julius Oestreicher  
Frank McCoy  
Clarence E. Lightfoot  
Robert Menshausen  
John R. Upshaw  
Martin J. Marran  
Clifford A. Goldberg  
Henry H. Cottrell  
Leon Braus  
Clifford H. Herrmann  
Alfred P. Haft  
John J. Duffy

### CORPORALS

Philip Kneeter  
William P. Tallman  
Arden Waldman  
Norman Greenberg  
Charles Haar  
Harry Shean  
Julius Steinberg  
Sylvester A. Wolff  
Ronald G. Ingram  
Benjamin C. Price  
George M. Bechtel



CENTRAL KITCHEN



*The problem of feeding the population at the post (at times over 4,000) was efficiently handled by the culinary artists of the hospital, a few of whom were cooks by profession. Some of our ablest talent, however, was recruited from men who in former civil life had been watch-makers, steeple-jacks, etc. The magnitude of the food problem can be appreciated when it is understood that the hospital consumed from four to five head of cattle a day. The distribution of supplies to and from the kitchen was accomplished by the use of small Ford trucks which ran through the cloisters.*

## COOKS

Larent Cateura  
Josef H. Jochems  
Lockwood R. Quinliven  
Nicholas F. Ribsam  
Louis M. Strauss  
John J. Hayes  
Otto H. Kroeger  
Mirko Radovic  
Raymond G. Stoddard



ONE OF THE RECREATIONS AT VAUCLAIRE.



OLD CHURCH AT MONTIGNAC.  
(On "cognac" hill behind hospital)



## PRIVATES 1ST CLASS

Otto H. Ahrens  
Joseph L. Berman  
Harry A. Blades  
Henry J. Butt  
Carl R. Carlson  
Herbert W. Daniel  
Howard Dreyfous  
Ludovic A. Fally  
Isidor Friedberg  
Julius Gluck  
Harold Greenblatt  
Carl Henderson  
Walter H. James  
Jerome Krauskopf  
Leon Lessler  
Roceo Marino  
Elmer J. Maxwell  
George W. Morton  
Jan J. Oresky  
Albert J. Rutter  
William F. Schatz  
Sidney Siegel  
Joseph Smith  
Julius Strelitz  
Charles F. Williams  
Charles E. Worster  
Joseph Abelson  
Max Bachrach  
John A. Rice

PRIVATES 1ST CLASS—*Continued*

John J. Shanley  
Louis M. Strauss  
Frederic V. Guinzburg  
John J. Hayes  
Arnold B. Wertheimer  
Adolph B. Lichtenstein  
Anthony Ast  
Raymond Bizet  
Moses Blumenthal  
Arthur Caesar  
Milton Craw  
Frank Dolan  
Charles Duncan  
Harry Feinberg  
Charles W. Gabriel  
Horatio Gosman  
Lyndon J. Griffin  
John S. Hughes  
Hyman Kranish  
Benjamin Lazrus  
William Malicke  
Sigmund Markowitz  
Edward Miller  
James B. O'Reilly  
Louis Rose  
William R. Schaad  
Benjamin Shindelman  
Herbert I. Smith  
William Sobrofke



FUNERAL PROCESSION OF A SOLDIER BURIED WITH MILITARY HONORS.



**PRIVATES 1ST CLASS—Continued**

James M. Vinicombe

John V. Winter

Frederick Zehetner

Archibald E. Martin

Milton Pilot

Louis K. Roth

Herman R. Steinberg

Max Strauss

William P. Tallman

Julian Warnstadt

John J. Lenehan

## PRIVATES

William Beards  
James V. Clohessy  
William T. Devanney  
Ira T. Kraner  
Sydney A. Rees  
Henry R. Whiting  
Mortimer A. Loew  
Louis Devoto, Jr.  
Charles Gillman  
Louis Goldey  
Harry Rudler  
Leo Horstein  
Paul Strashun  
Pierre L. Cerramon  
Robert F. Clohessy  
Thomas H. Ellis  
James H. Maddocks  
Louis Whitestone  
Jack Leiman  
James G. Manes  
Edward L. Monaghan  
Jesse Glauber  
Israel Goodman  
Lyndon J. Griffin  
Abraham Scobel



OF THE 10,000 SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS WHO WERE TREATED AT VAUCLAIRE,  
THESE 172 REMAINED IN THE LITTLE CEMETERY AT MENESTROL



